

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

COMMITTEE RULES AND FUNDING

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes now while we wait on other Senators who may want to comment on what I am about to say. But I want to thank the chairmen and the ranking members of the committees who have worked together over the past 6 weeks to get an agreement on the committee rules and the funding and staffing and space arrangements for the Senate committees this year.

Senator DASCHLE and I worked through a very difficult process to get the organization resolution passed back in January. But in some respects that was the easy part, even though that was not easy. It was easier than what the chairmen and ranking members had to go through. Each committee had to deal with how they were going to proceed with the 50-50 division of Members. They had to work on different rules of different committees, different personalities, and different responsibilities.

Most of the committees went through it at a pretty quick pace. Some of them were more difficult and were more complex.

When the time came the beginning of March for us to pass the funding resolution, not all had been done. There were, I guess, two or three committees that still had some serious reservations or disagreements. But for those committees we extended the time without a lot of difficulty. And those committees have continued to work together, and they have reached agreement, one by one.

Then we were down to just one final committee, and they have reached an agreement—Senator HATCH and Senator LEAHY. I know it was not easy for either one of them, but I want to thank all who have been involved for the effort that has been put into this. I think it still bodes well that we can work together through difficult issues in a bipartisan way.

Having said that, we are ready to go now, and we are ready to discharge the Rules Committee and adopt this resolution. I understand there has been an objection to it being done through the discharge mechanism, that they want the Judiciary Committee to act, and then they want the Rules Committee to meet.

I note that it is 10 minutes until 5 on Thursday. Members were told there would not be any further votes. So, once again, I am saying all this and pointing out that, while I am trying very hard, it is still very difficult to get things done without them being complicated. There is no reason why we should not discharge the committee and get this done after all of the good work that is being done. I am going to say, flat out, I suspect there is staff in-

involved in this. It is uncalled for, and it is being, in my opinion, petty to have to track down Members to try to get them to come running over to try to get some sort of running quorum, and to have a vote. And then, by the way, what if we don't get them? What are we going to do, after all this work?

So, Mr. President, I ask Senator REID, can we move this forward? After all that Senator DASCHLE and I have done, and all that has been done by all the Members, on both sides—including the chairman and ranking member on Judiciary—can't we move this through now?

Mr. REID. The Judiciary Committee has completed their work. That part is out of the way. Would the leader allow me to suggest the absence of a quorum for a brief moment?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 54, submitted by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE, regarding committee expenditures, that the resolution become the pending business, it then be considered agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Before the Chair rules on this request, I want to announce to the Senate that this resolution contains the entire committee expenditures for all Senate committees to continue funding through February 28, 2003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 54) was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator REID and staff on both sides of the aisle for making this possible. This really is an important achievement. We should understand that. It also guarantees our staff members will get their paychecks on time.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to the leader, it is my understanding there is

going to be a business meeting of the Rules Committee next week. That was part of the agreement.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I may respond to Senator REID's inquiry, that was not part of the unanimous consent agreement, but that is the understanding on both sides of the aisle, that there should be a business meeting of the Rules Committee, and they should discuss matters that are pending and go forward from there.

Yes, that is our understanding. I know the chairman will be accommodating that.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RULES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, pursuant to the Standing Rules of the Senate, the rules of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary as approved by the committee today be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

I. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary on three days' notice or in the alternative with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member or pursuant to the provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate, as amended.

2. Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any Subcommittee shall file with the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing, a written statement of his or her testimony in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee prescribes.

3. On the request of any member, a nomination or bill on the agenda of the Committee will be held over until the next meeting of the Committee or for one week, whichever occurs later.

II. QUORUMS

1. Ten Members shall constitute a quorum of the Committee when reporting a bill or nomination; provided the proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

2. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony, a quorum of the Committee and each Subcommittee thereof, now or hereafter appointed, shall consist of one Senator.

III. PROXIES

When a record vote is taken in the Committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, a quorum being present, a member who is unable to attend the meeting may submit his vote by proxy, in writing or by telephone, or through personal instructions. A proxy must be specific with respect to the matters it addresses.

IV. BRINGING THE MATTER TO A VOTE

The Chairman shall entertain a non-debatable motion to bring a matter before the

Committee to a vote. If there is objection to bring the matter to a vote without further debate, a rollcall vote of the Committee shall be taken, and debate shall be terminated if the motion to bring the matter to a vote without further debate passes with ten votes in the affirmative, one of which must be cast by the Minority.

V. SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during its hearings or any other meeting, it shall not have the authority to vote on any matter before the Subcommittee unless he is a member of such Subcommittee.

2. Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the Subcommittee chairmanship and seniority on the particular Subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

3. Except for matters retained at the Full Committee, matters shall be referred to the appropriate Subcommittee or Subcommittees by the Chairman, except as agreed by a majority vote of the Committee or by the agreement of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member.

VI. ATTENDANCE RULES

1. Official attendance at all Committee markups and executive sessions of the Committee shall be kept by the Committee Clerk. Official attendance at all Subcommittee markups and executive sessions shall be kept by the Subcommittee Clerk.

2. Official attendance at all hearings shall be kept, provided that Senators are notified by the Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, in the case of Committee hearings, and by the Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member, in the case of Subcommittee hearings, 48 hours in advance of the hearing that attendance will be taken; otherwise, no attendance will be taken. Attendance at all hearings is encouraged.

RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 107th Congress. Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator ROCKEFELLER, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. MEETINGS

(a) Unless otherwise ordered, the Committee shall meet on the first Wednesday of each month. The Chairman may, upon proper notice and after consultation with the Ranking Member, call such additional meetings as he deems necessary.

(b) Except as provided in subparagraphs (b) and (d) of paragraph 5 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public. The Committee shall prepare and keep a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to fully record the proceedings of each meeting whether or not such meeting or any part thereof is closed to the public.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee or the Ranking Member in the absence of the Chairman, or such other Member as the Chairman may designate, shall preside at all meetings.

(d) Except as provided in rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and as speci-

fied in paragraph (h), no meeting of the Committee shall be scheduled except by majority vote of the Committee or by authorization of the Chairman of the Committee after consultation with the Ranking Member.

(e) The Committee shall notify the office designated by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the time, place, and purpose of each meeting. In the event such meeting is canceled, the Committee shall immediately notify such designated office.

(f) Written notice of a Committee meeting, accompanied by an agenda enumerating the items of business to be considered, which agenda will be developed by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Member, shall be sent to all Committee members at least 72 hours (not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays) in advance of each meeting. In the event that the giving of such 72-hour notice is prevented by unforeseen requirements or Committee business, the Committee staff shall communicate notice by the quickest appropriate means to members or appropriate staff assistants of Members and an agenda shall be furnished prior to the meeting.

(g) Subject to the second sentence of this paragraph, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless a written copy of such amendment has been delivered to each member of the Committee at least 24 hours before the meeting at which the amendment is to be proposed. This paragraph may be waived by a majority vote of the members and shall apply only when 72-hour written notice has been provided in accordance with paragraph (f).

(h) During such times in the 107th Congress as the parties shall be equally divided, if, after consultation by the Ranking Member of the Committee with the Chairman, an oversight hearing requested by the Ranking Member is not scheduled by the Chairman to take place within a reasonable period, the procedures set forth in paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate shall apply, except, with respect to oversight hearings only, the number of members required to file the written notice of a special meeting under that rule shall be reduced to seven.

II. QUORUMS

(a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b), eight members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting or approving of any measure or matter or recommendation. Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting any other business.

(b) In order to transact any business at a Committee meeting, at least one member of the Ranking Member's party shall be present. If, at any meeting, business cannot be transacted because of the absence of such a member, the matter shall lay over for a calendar day. If the presence of a member of the Ranking Member's party is not then obtained, business may be transacted by the appropriate quorum.

(c) One member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of receiving testimony.

III. VOTING

(a) Votes may be cast by proxy. A proxy shall be written and may be conditioned by personal instructions. A proxy shall be valid only for the day given.

(b) There shall be a complete record kept of all Committee action. Such record shall contain the vote cast by each member of the Committee on any question on which a roll call vote is requested.

IV. HEARINGS AND HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Except as specifically otherwise provided, the rules governing meetings shall govern hearings.

(b) At least 1 week in advance of the date of any hearing, the Committee shall undertake, consistent with the provisions of paragraph 4 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, to make public announcements of the date, place, time, and subject matter of such hearing.

(c) The Committee shall require each witness who is scheduled to testify at any hearing to file 40 copies of such witness' testimony with the Committee not later than 48 hours prior to the witness' scheduled appearance unless the Chairman and Ranking Member determine there is good cause for failure to do so.

(d) The presiding member at any hearing is authorized to limit the time allotted to each witness appearing before the Committee.

(e) The Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member of the Committee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses and the production of memoranda, documents, records, and any other materials. If the Chairman or a Committee staff member designated by the Chairman has not received from the Ranking Member or a Committee staff member designated by the Ranking Member notice of the Ranking Member's nonconcurrence in the subpoena within 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays) of being notified of the Chairman's intention to subpoena attendance or production, the Chairman is authorized following the end of the 48-hour period involved to subpoena the same without the Ranking Member's concurrence. Regardless of whether a subpoena has been concurred in by the Ranking Member, such subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Committee. When the Committee or Chairman authorizes a subpoena, the subpoena may be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or of any other member of the Committee designated by the Chairman.

(f) In the event that a hearing is convened under the provisions of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Ranking Member shall, subject to each and all of the limitations specified in paragraph IV(e) of these rules, have the same powers to subpoena witnesses as would otherwise be vested in the Chairman, and the Chairman, in such instances, shall have the same prerogatives as would otherwise be vested in the Ranking Member under paragraph IV(e) of these rules.

(g) Except as specified in Committee Rule VII (requiring oaths, under certain circumstances, at hearings to confirm Presidential nominations), witnesses at hearings will be required to give testimony under oath whenever the presiding member deems such to be advisable.

V. MEDIA COVERAGE

Any Committee meeting or hearing which is open to the public may be covered by television, radio, and print media. Photographers, reporters, and crew members using mechanical recording, filming or broadcasting devices shall position and use their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, or hearing of the Committee members or staff or with the orderly conduct of the meeting or hearing. The presiding member of the meeting or hearing may for good cause terminate, in whole or in part, the use of such mechanical devices or take such other action as the circumstances and the orderly conduct of the meeting or hearing may warrant.

VI. GENERAL

All applicable requirements of the Standing Rules of the Senate shall govern the Committee.

VII. PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS

(a) Each Presidential nominee whose nomination is subject to Senate confirmation and